

Examiners Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 15, 17, 18, 24, 26, 31 and 33.

In claim 16, please delete "A suction roll seal strip, comprising a mixture of more than 50% nitrile rubber and graphite, and said mixture containing wax, the mixture being formed into the suction roll seal strip" and insert in its place --A suction roll seal strip, comprising a mixture of more than 50% nitrile rubber and graphite, and said mixture containing wax, the mixture being formed into the suction roll seal strip, wherein the amount of wax is selected such that a seal strip, with a cross-section of 1.9 by 4.8 cm can be rolled onto a reel with a radius of less than 1.5 m, wherein the wax in the mixture has a melting point greater than 100° C, and wherein the mixture includes 1–15 % wax by volume--.

In claim 19, please delete "claim 18" and insert in its place --claim16--.

In claim 30, please delete "a section of material selected to allow a seal strip with a cross-section of 1.9 cm by 4.8 cm to be bent into a reel with a radius of less than 150 cm" and insert in its place --a section of material selected to allow a seal strip with a cross-section of 1.9 cm by 4.8 cm to be bent into a reel

with a radius of less than 150 cm, wherein the seal strip is comprised of a mixture of more than 50 % nitrile rubber and graphite, and contains wax, wherein the wax in the mixture has a melting point within the range of 110-150°C--.

In claim 32, please delete "claim 33" and insert in its place --claim 30--.

In claim 34, please delete "claim 33" and insert in its place --claim 30--.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrick Stiennon on May 18, 2009.

Reasons for allowance

3. Claims 16, 19-23, 25, 27-30, 32 and 34 are allowed and renumbered as claims 1-13.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach or suggest the recited suction roll seal strip further including a cross-section of 1.9 by 4.8 cm with a radius of less than 1.5 m, wherein the mixture includes 1-15 % wax by volume, wherein the wax in the mixture has a melting point greater than 100°C. The prior art of record also does not teach or suggest the recited suction roll seal strip for placement in a holder of a stationarily supported suction box in a paper machine further including a mixture of more than 50% nitrile rubber and graphite, and contains wax, wherein the wax in the mixture has a melting point within the range of 110-150°C.

The prior art does not teach motivation or suggestion for modification to make the invention as instantly claimed.

Any comments considered by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Ferguson whose telephone number is 571-272-1522. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:00 AM – 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample, can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the
Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Lawrence Ferguson/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/David R. Sample/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794